

school and middle school children from throughout the Montclair School District. In addition, three Montclair High School students will receive the Ceasefire New Jersey Peacekeeper Award, a scholarship in recognition of their work to end gun violence and promote peace. First-place winner Kelly McGuinness will receive a scholarship of \$1,000, while runners up Mia Elizabeth Sifford and Samuel Winful will receive \$300 each. The keynote speaker will be Donna Dees-Thomasen, organizer of the Million Mom March event to be held in Washington in May.

Ceasefire New Jersey was founded as New Jersey Citizens to Stop Gun Violence in 1988 by the Rev. Jack Johnson, a Methodist minister outraged at the use of assault weapons in shooting deaths. The North Jersey chapter was established in 1995 by Montclair gun safety activist Dorothy McGann in response to the fatal shooting of four individuals at the Watchung Plaza Post Office in Montclair that March.

In announcing the formation of the chapter, Mrs. McGann emphasized that the tragic shooting in quiet, small-town Montclair was proof that a shooting can happen anytime, anywhere. "We can't say it can't happen here," she said. Subsequent shooting deaths in the area—along with the tragic shootings in schools across our nation—have strengthened the organizations' resolve. The group regularly holds commemorative evenings to remember victims of gun violence, works with local schools to spread word of the dangers of gun violence among our young people, cooperates with police agency and lobbies Washington and Trenton legislators.

The theme that students entering this weekend's essay contest were asked to address is "Making Our Schools a Model for Peace." I can think of no better subject for young people to address today. We have seen an alarming number of children dying from gun violence in recent years. The scenario of a troubled child taking a gun to school and shooting his classmates has occurred all too often.

I applaud the work being done by Ceasefire New Jersey, both in our schools and in the community at large. All of the legislation that can be passed in Washington and the state legislatures combined cannot do as much to end gun violence as groups like this, which work at the grassroots level to change the way children think about guns. Our children are our most precious gifts and we cannot allow the tragedy of gun violence to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Ceasefire New Jersey for the work it has done, and in holding it up as an example that can be followed across our nation.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE WOLTERS AND STEPHEN RUSSELL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend two men in my district—Mr. Steve Wolters and Mr. Stephen Russell—who are

heroes. Mr. Wolters, of Alton, Illinois, was on his mail route when he saw the home of Ms. Judith Freeman was in flames. Without hesitation, Mr. Wolters and Mr. Russell tried to gain entry into the house to rescue Ms. Freeman.

Finding the doors to the home locked, Mr. Wolters broke a window so that he and Mr. Russell could get in. Once inside the home, both men brought the unconscious Ms. Freeman to safety. Mr. Wolters then performed CPR, until the fire-fighters and paramedics arrived. After discussing the situation with the emergency team, Mr. Wolters went back to his route.

It is refreshing, Mr. Speaker, to see that the generosity of the human spirit is alive and well. Thank you Mr. Wolters and Mr. Russell for your quick thinking and heroic actions. You both symbolize the greatness that is America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN BADGERS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Wisconsin basketball team for their outstanding season which was recently gloriously culminated with their trip to the Final Four!

The Badgers capped their NCAA tournament bid with astounding victories over Fresno State, Arizona, LSU, and Purdue. This is the first time since 1941 that the Badgers have been to the Final four. Not only have they shocked the world of college basketball, but they have also illustrated that we should never count out a victory when there is an amazing combination of both talent and heart.

The Badgers have had an exceptional season which I hope is the beginning of a lasting legacy. I congratulate both Coach Bennett and the team on an outstanding start to such a fulfilling goal. These NCAA Tournament games have illustrated that they have what it takes to be successful for years to come.

The entire Badger's team along with coach Bennett won a birth to the Final Four because they have the spirit that makes every University of Wisconsin student proud to be a Badger. I commend their exemplary performance for both the University and the entire State of Wisconsin. I would like to thank them for giving us such an exciting season and congratulate them on their monumental success. Most important, I would like to wish them luck in their quest to win a National Championship. They should be assured that myself and the entire State of Wisconsin will be rooting for them this weekend.

SALUTING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MATTHEW "MACK" ROBINSON

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, my district and our nation lost a great hero. On Sunday, March 12, Matthew "Mack" Robinson died from complications associated with diabetes. Mack is a legend not just in the Pasadena area, but around the world. Mack's life is a testament to hard work and determination; he was a proud, humble, public servant who was admired by all.

Mack was born in Cairo, Georgia 88 years ago. He then moved to Pasadena at age 6. His work helped to lead Pasadena from segregation to unification. Today Pasadena is one of the most diverse communities in the nation.

Mack attended Pasadena public schools, after graduating from Muir Technical High School and attending Pasadena Junior College. He shined as an athlete; many said it ran in the family. His younger brother Jackie was one of baseball's greatest. Mack was a record-setter in high school, and a state champion.

At Pasadena College, he competed to join another great, Jesse Owens, on the 1936 Olympic team. When the team traveled to Berlin, Mack ran in the same shoes he wore in Pasadena. His success came from raw talent, grit, and determination.

Sadly, after returning home, Mack did not encounter the open arms he found on the track in Berlin. He attended the University of Oregon, only to return home when hardship struck his family. Mack moved back to Pasadena to support his family, and began work with the city of Pasadena. Anecdotes abound of a smiling Mack proudly wearing his USA Olympic sweatshirt while he worked—often sweeping streets—in and around Pasadena.

As the New York Times reported, Mack lost his job when the city fired all black employees in a desegregation battle. While others sat idly by, Mack turned his efforts to his fellow Pasadenans. He began a lifetime of service and volunteerism in the community, never asking a penny in payment or recognition. His actions spoke louder than words.

Not long ago, the city of Pasadena saluted the contributions of Mack and his brother Jackie by erecting a monument to the two men near city hall. It is a fitting tribute to the lives of these two prominent Pasadena residents.

But Mr. Speaker an even more fitting tribute will be when my colleagues here today join me in saluting from the well of the House, the life, the work, and the legacy of Matthew Mack Robinson.

THE DEFEAT OF THE FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to briefly comment on yesterday's unfortunate

vote in the Senate on the Flag Protection Amendment.

As many of my colleagues know, the Senate failed to pass the amendment by the necessary two-thirds majority, which would have sent the amendment to the States for ratification. The House had earlier passed this amendment by more than the required majority.

Following the vote, the American Legion national commander issued a profound statement expressing his organization's disappointment with the vote. I would like to include a copy of National Commander Alan G. Lance Sr.'s remarks for the RECORD, because I believe it summarizes the frustration felt by many of our veterans with the Senate's continued failure to approve this amendment.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 29, 2000).—After 11 years and countless resolutions and bills, letters, phone calls, meetings, rallies, and speeches, it is with deep disappointment that we stand here today and witness the defeat of Senate Joint Resolution 14, the Flag Protection Amendment.

This vote represents a quantum shift in the balance of power that makes our democracy the envy of the world. The individual flag-burner is not nearly as much of a threat to our democracy as the belief, held by a minority of senators, that an amendment supported by 49 states and a poll-validated super-majority of the American people is somehow invalid.

What some senators fear, more than an amendment to protect the flag from acts of physical desecration, is that the American people will take control of their government. Such resistance to the will of the people will leave the people no other alternative but to convene a constitutional convention, which The American Legion would not advocate.

For 11 years, we have come to this place. We have told our stories about the Flag—how it led us into battle, how it comforted us in faraway lands, how it embraced our fallen brothers and sisters, how it marked the resting place of heroes, how it led us home with parades and pageantry, how it represents more than cloth and colors.

For 11 years, we have represented tens of millions of Americans, serving as a megaphone for a simple, sweeping, and united call to protect the Flag.

For 11 years, we have tried to break the stranglehold of a minority that has flouted the will of an entire nation, its states and their people.

Today, we have lost this battle, and I must admit that I fear we are losing much more. Could it be that "we the people" and the states are losing control of our democratic republic?

The very idea of representative democracy presupposes that elected officials follow the will of the people. Senators have told us that calls, letters, and emails poured into their offices in support of this amendment. I was even told that calls were 100 percent in favor of the amendment in some offices.

If the Senate refuses to follow the will of the people on an issue so clear-cut, so broadly supported as the Flag Protection Amendment, then is this really a republic? Is this really our government?

In the aftermath of this vote, I am not sure how to answer those questions. It is little wonder why so many people are flocking to third parties or opting out of the political process altogether.

In spite of all of this, I have not lost all hope. A new day and a new Congress await us

in the not-too-distant future. And people like Senator Hatch and Senator Cleland who with many others will continue to stand with us. They have my deepest appreciation and respect for their steadfast support and brave bipartisan leadership on this issue.

Perhaps this defeat will serve as a wake-up call for America. Perhaps it will inspire us to fight harder. Perhaps it will prompt us to remind our senators—in a not-so subtle way—that they work for us, not us for them.

I refuse to believe that fighting this battle was in vain. We have learned; we have grown; we have rallied a nation. And so, we will not stand down. We will not go away.

We will not surrender. We will continue this struggle until our federal government is put back into balance, and the people's prerogative honored.

HONORING KURTH COTTAGE OF VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kurth Cottage of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey on its 50th anniversary of service to the hospital and surrounding community.

Kurth Cottage is the gift shop and restaurant/tea room at Valley Hospital. It once was an actual cottage, however, and the rooms it occupies in the hospital building today have been renovated to closely resemble the lovely surroundings of the original cottage.

Valley Hospital has put so much effort into what might otherwise be a simple, utilitarian facility because of extra level of comfort that warm, friendly surroundings can bring to patients' families. Family members visiting seriously ill relatives have many worries on their minds. A good meal in comforting surroundings can help ease those worries and make their outlook more optimistic. A positive outlook among family can, in turn, offer encouragement to patients themselves as they face recovery from surgery or illness.

Kurth Cottage has its origins in 1948, when the Women's Auxiliary of Valley Hospital decided that the hospital, which was still under construction, should have a "small gift shop and snack bar." Rather than include the shop and snack bar in the hospital building, a small house on the hospital grounds was chosen as its site and named for Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Kurth, major benefactors of the project. The cottage opened for business May 1, 1950, five months ahead of the opening of the hospital itself.

Kurth Cottage proved to be much more than the typical stainless steel and Formica hospital snack bar. The cottage included an 18-seat Snack Bar, a 40-seat Tea Room and a 28-seat Fireside Room, which also included the gift shop.

The Kurth Cottage facility became part of the main hospital during a 1963 expansion and the original cottage, unfortunately, was demolished to make room for a parking lot in 1963. The new facilities included a beautifully

appointed, Williamsburg-influenced Tea Room, Snack Bar and Gift Shop, a new kitchen and a gracious Fireside Room incorporating many features of the original. Furnishings included Mrs. Kurth's Victorian sofa, chairs, a drop-leaf table, fireplace andirons and white birch fireplace logs. Fresh flowers in the Tea Room were donated twice weekly by local florists, as they still are today.

The cottage underwent major renovations in 1990, adding a Colonial blue color scheme to the woodwork, new wallpaper, swag draperies, new tables and chairs and handsome new flooring. The china has matching blue borders and volunteers wear matching blue smocks. A canopied walkway leads to the entrance of the facility and a new waiting area has been designed around the former Fireside Room.

Throughout its history, Kurth Cottage has always been a profitable enterprise, helping fund the many charitable activities of the Ladies Auxiliary.

None of this success would have been possible, of course, without the untiring dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who have served over the past half-century. These women have done more than simply run a "snack bar." They have made the emotional trauma of injury and illness more bearable for the families of patients at Valley Hospital for decades. They deserve our deepest gratitude for all they have done to lighten the burdens of patients and families. Most especially, we bow in deepest admiration and respect for the many volunteers who have given of themselves, both in time and personal dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Kurth Cottage on its 50th anniversary and thanking everyone involved with its success for their hard work.

HONORING THE ILLINOIS EDUCATORS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the 2000 Golden Apple Scholar award winners from my district. The Golden Apple Scholars program is to recruit talented high school juniors who want to become teachers.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Curtis Carpenter from Centralia High School in Centralia, Illinois. Teachers, like parents, have a unique opportunity—to touch the life of a child. I can't think of a more rewarding experience.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was a former high school teacher. I want to wish Curtis all the same joy and success that I shared in my teaching career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2000, I missed six recorded votes because I